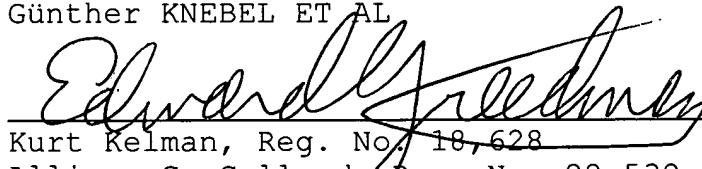


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1. The claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Günther KNEBEL ET AL



Kurt Kelman, Reg. No. 18,628
Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Express Mail No.: EV 493 841 987 US
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Maria Guastella